



# NEWS

# BULLETIN

December, 2023

Missionary and synodally in heart and mind

## THE PROVINCIAL'S TRIP TO ROME

Fr. Milikiade had returned from Rome attending a Symposium and a meeting with the General Council towards the end of November. The Symposium was held at the FMS Brothers' General House and it involved presentations from speakers on various topics. He presented a paper on the challenges faced by our formation house at Marist College, Suva such as the need for Vocation Promoter and Sector Leader to be more vigilant and get to know better their candidates before they are sent for formation, the lack of role models as there are no more professed students at Marist College, and the negative impact of the excessive consumption of kava and the use of electronic devices on their formation. Another interesting paper was Fr. Alois Greiler presenting both arguments for and against on the current work for the canonization of Fr. Founder. During his stay, the Provincial had meetings with the General Council on issues ranging from the mission of the Society in Oceania and internationally. It was a wonderful occasion too to meet up with our priests and seminarians currently studying in Rome. It was wonderful too to return to warm Suva.



## FROM PORT ORLY, VANUATU TO TAVEUNI, FIJI

Because of new Vanuatu Government's policy which forbade Religious to renew working permit until after 2 years, Fr. Epoki accepted the call to go to Wairiki Parish, Taveuni. Happy Harvest Epoki!



## THANK YOU HELEN!

With sincere gratitude, we joined Marist College in thanking Helen for 27 years of dedicated service to the formation house. She was the cook as well a loving mother to all seminarians we have studied at Marist College. We wish you Helen a relaxing and a happy retirement.



## MARIST LAITY GATHERING, SOLOMON ISLANDS

For the second time this year and attendees increased, the Marist Laity in the Solomon Islands gathered at Bani Hill for a weekend of prayers and sharing. There were inputs from the Sector Leader, Fr. Jacob and others on Marist spirituality and a deepening of Catholic faith. Yes, 'we must make whole world Marist'!



## ADMINISTRATION NEWS

- The Provincial is currently in the house
- Lutoviko is attending his nephew's ordination in Tonga, a small break and will return first week of January.

## Anniversary of Ordination—Ad multos annos!

The majority of our confreres had the anniversaries of their ordination this month. May you look back with gratitude over the years of your priestly ministry and look to the future to do even greater things for the Society of Mary. Happy Anniversary!

**RENEWAL FOR YOUNG MARIST PRIESTS**

'Raiatea' in the first week of December was full of noise and full of life as four young Marist priests of Oceania Province, Frs. Sefo Vili, Mika Misinale, Pila Kiola and Joe Tora got together for a week of reflection, input and sharing. Fr. Soane 'Alohako was the facilitator. Topics covered includes the Context of the SM in Oceania, Globalization and the shifting of thoughts which affects our men on mission, Professionalism, Characters of Ministers, Dynamic of Power in Ministry, Human Sexuality and Celibacy and Confidentiality. We are truly grateful to Soane for availing himself to be with our young Marists. And we wish also our confreres as they return home, some to new mission next year an enriching and a fruitful ministry in the work of our Blessed Mother.



**VOCATION PROMOTION**

Towards the end of the academic year, the seminarians at Marist College with the help of formators prepared their materials for promoting vocation in their respective places of holiday. Fr. Samu led one group to Vanualevu in Fiji. Others went to PNG and Vanuatu. Seen in the photos below are the seminarians from Bougainville promoting vocation to huge number of young people. May Mary inspire their hearts.



**"YOUNG MAN I TELL YOU GET UP"**

It was the theme for the National Gathering of Young Catholics in Port Vila, Vanuatu. It was a week of spiritual input and reflection. Fr. Louis Maite sm working with the youth was very much involved. He is seen here in the photo with Bishop Baremes and Fr. Morlini enjoying a shell of strong Vanuatu kava.



**SANTA CLAUS COMING EARLY**

Apifo'ou College, Tonga once again was gifted with new rugby jerseys, a new set of brass band instruments from the ex-students and tools for the TVET program from World Bank. The Tonga Soccer team at the recent Pacific Games in the Solomon presented their soccer gears to Fr. Viko and Br. Kanai.



**CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM 'RAIATEA'**

"Let us journey together in prayers and taking time to ponder deeply what the birth of Jesus is calling us as Marists as we prepare for this celebration and the journey that lies ahead. Confreres and friends I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas. And may the New Year brings you success and God's blessings." (Fr Milikiade Rayalu SM, Provincial)

